

Re: closing the loop on North Pole Refinery/sulfolane

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Re: closing the loop on North Pole Refinery/sulfolane

Farris, Ann M (DEC)

to:

Chris Field, Christy Brown

04/18/2010 08:45 PM

Cc:

Robert Whittier

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Thank you Chris and Bob for looking into this. Having worked on other NPL sites, I don't think this one will measure up, at least as long as sulfolane toxicity data is what it is. I called Christy initially because of EPA's historical involvement at the site and because information on sulfolane is relatively limited. I am not sure what the role of EPA would be in this case so I'm curious as to your thoughts.

As an update, the first technical team meeting went fairly well and Flint Hills seems committed to aggressively addressing the issue and working with us. Our next meeting is May 4-5th. Summary notes will be forthcoming this week as well as an agenda for the next meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 907-451-2104.

Thank you,  
Ann

----- Original Message -----

From: Field.Chris@epamail.epa.gov <Field.Chris@epamail.epa.gov>

To: Brown.Christy@epamail.epa.gov <Brown.Christy@epamail.epa.gov>

Cc: Farris, Ann M (DEC); Hedeem.Roberta@epamail.epa.gov <Hedeem.Roberta@epamail.epa.gov>;

Whittier.Robert@epamail.epa.gov <Whittier.Robert@epamail.epa.gov>; Terada.Calvin@epamail.epa.gov

<Terada.Calvin@epamail.epa.gov>; Kawabata.Sylvia@epamail.epa.gov <Kawabata.Sylvia@epamail.epa.gov>;

Carr.Matthew@epamail.epa.gov <Carr.Matthew@epamail.epa.gov>

Sent: Thu Apr 15 09:56:28 2010

Subject: Re: closing the loop on North Pole Refinery/sulfolane

Christy and Robbie,

I'm asking OSC Bob Whittier of my staff to take a look at this case and determine whether it falls under Superfund jurisdiction and whether there is a viable role for the Removal program. If Bob determines there is not a role for us, then we will notify DEC of that finding and promptly remove ourselves from the group involved. I'm also copying Sylvia Kawabata as the manager of the Superfund NPL process, so she can determine whether there is a potential NPL interest in this project.

Thanks,  
Chris.

Chris D. Field, Manager,  
Emergency Preparedness and Response Program,  
Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10  
(206) 553-1674

From: Christy Brown/R10/USEPA/US

To: "Farris, Ann M (DEC)" <ann.farris@alaska.gov>, Chris Field/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

Cc: Roberta Hedeem/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 04/07/2010 09:41 AM

Subject: closing the loop on North Pole Refinery/sulfolane

FILE COPY

Hello. Just wanted to close the loop, as both Robbie and I have been talking to the two of you.

After talking to Ann today, I am comfortable that the RCRA program does not need to be involved in the sulfolane investigations at North Pole refinery. Although we have an open 3008(h) order, the only thing it currently requires is submittal of progress reports, and sulfolane isn't even a hazardous constituent under RCRA. Ann is doing a great job keeping us in the loop via monthly progress reports from the facility, and she will keep me on the distribution list for technical team meeting notes.

It does make sense, though, that EPA be involved. Chris, Robbie said you agreed this was the type of thing we (Superfund) should stay abreast of.

So I am sending this email to be sure you both have each others' contact information.

If there is any way we (RCRA) can be of help, please don't hesitate to call.

Thanks! - christy

Ann Farris, ADEC  
907-451-2104

Chris Field, EPA Region 10  
206 553-1674